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provided with parapet walls in accordance with the type design approved by the Sanitary Engineer. In the case of eight wells which are still under execution in this taluk, the work has been done up to construction of staining up to ground level, and the construction of parapet walls, platform, etc., in these cases will be taken up after consolidation of the soil on the sides.''

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—'' Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to extend this kindness (of sinking drinking water wells) to my constituency (i.e.), Villupuram, Valavanur and Kandamangalam firkas? ''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' This is only a request.''

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—'' Are the Government aware that some of these wells are even now without water and will the Government take any action to sink them deep? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' Such of those wells, which have no water, will be deepened.''

Supply of bad quality rice in Malabar.

* 269 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that *the rice supplied* from the ration shops at Kakkat, Thalap, Pannumbra, etc., under the Cannanore Producer-*cum*-Consumer Co-operative Society recently in July, August and September 1953, *is unfit for human consumption* containing a large percentage of powder, bran and insect-bitten stuff; and if so, what is the reason for the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' No Sir.''

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—'' May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken a decision not to supply good rice to Malabar? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' We are supplying the best rice to Malabar.''

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—'' Is the Hon. Minister aware of two important circumstances (1) that there has been a widespread complaint from various parts of Malabar that the rice supplied is of very inferior quality, not fit for human consumption and (2) that almost with a vengeance only raw rice is supplied while the people are accustomed to eat boiled rice? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' Sir, people are being carried away by the colour of the rice supplied. No doubt it is red, but, as I have already explained in reply to a question, red rice is not bad rice, not even inferior quality rice. Simply because the rice is red in colour, it should not be considered to be of inferior quality. With regard to the supply of raw and boiled rice, whatever we obtain by procurement we supply and if a certain amount of raw rice is also supplied in Malabar, it should not be a cause for complaint.''

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SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" சென்ற வருஷம் மலபார் ஜில்லாவுக்கு மட்ட ரகமான அரிசியை அனுப்பிவைத்து, அது அங்கு விற்காமல் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவிற்கு அங்கிருந்து அனுப்பப்பட்டு, தஞ்சாவூரில் அந்த அரிசி மில்லில் பாலிஷ் செய்யப்பட்டதனுல், பெரிய நஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா ? அந்த மாதிரி மட்ட ரகமான அரிசியை மல பாருக்கும் தஞ்சாவூருக்கும் மாற்றிக்கொண்டேயிருக்காமல் இருப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் தக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A separate question may be put."

Alleged starvation death in Malabar.

* 270 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether any starvation deaths were reported from Malabar during June, July and August 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No starvation death was reported from Malabar during the months of June, July and August 1953."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Has not the Government received a telegraphic message from Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar, M.L.A., Taliparamba, informing the Government that some starvation deaths have taken place in Padiyur village, Irikkur firka, Chirakkal taluk? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Not to my knowledge, Sir. I don't know when it was sent. The hon. Member may give the date."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The hon. Minister said that there were no starvation deaths. May I know whether there were starvation suicides during this period? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There is no classification as ' starvation suicide '. There might have been cases of attempted suicide."

SRI N. MAHALINGAM :—" May I know what the hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar was doing when the starvation deaths occurred? "

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" I did not hear the question properly."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Hundreds of starvation deaths have taken place in Malabar recently. May I know whether it is a fact that this Government had issued instructions that even if starvation deaths take place, they should not be reported to the Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I think the confusion arises in this way. Ordinary deaths are probably taken to be starvation deaths. There must have been deaths but I don't know what they were due to."